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NANCY'S NEICE"

MUSICAL COMEDY-DRAMA

THREE ACTS

BY

ELIZABETH STREET HART

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No. 1.

"NANCY'S NEICE"

CHARACTERS

JIM WHITE—A Banker of Memphis, Tennessee.

PEGGY WHITE—The beautiful young daughter of Jim White.

BERT LEONARD—A young man of wealth and Peggy's sweetheart, the man her father wants her to marry.
(Col. Baltin and Bert Leonard can double up play the same part.)

COL. BALTIN—A rich old rascal to come on in last Act. He holds papers over Jim White and offers to marry Peggy and lift the debt.

DORA SMITH—Jim White's cook.

ESSIE GRAHAM—Peggy's maid.

NANCY BROWN—Jim White's sister.

ZEBE BROWN—Nancy's husband—the Browns live in a little country village.

JOE BENTLEY—An orphan boy the Browns raised. Joe falls in love with Peggy when she makes them a visit.

ELLEN JONES—Old maid, best to have her tall with cork screw curls, dressed old style.

JENNIE TATE—Married dame.

POLLY SPRINGER—Curls and old style dress, old maid.

SYMANTHY HIGGINS—Married dame, dressed plain.

SISTER—PERKINS—Minister's wife. Plain dress.

JOHN GREY—Jim White's butler.

COSTUMES

WHITE—(Aged fifty) Grayish wig and genteel business suit.

PEGGY—(Age seventeen). Spring coat suit suitable for traveling. Nice little hat to match; ginham apron and bonnet. Fine evening dress to be worn after Peggy's arrival at Nancy's. Pretty house dress to be worn in her city home after five years.

COL EALTIN—(Age sixty), gray wig and side whiskers, frock coat, high hat; is a shrewd smooth spoken man; cold and cynical in his manner.

NANCY—(Age forty-five). Gingham dress and white apron, country costumes, old fashion; emphasis should be placed upon speech and action rather than upon costumes to indicate peculiarities; (black dress, silk very out of date to be worn just after her arrival in city when she goes shopping with Peggy). The dress that Peggy buys—her new style black silk, full skirt, rather short; high heel shoes, silk hose; little hat very stylish.

BROWN—(Age fifty), grayish red wig and chin whiskers, sunburned complexion, patched pants, too short; short sack coat, colored shirt, brown socks and low shoes, very dusty.

ESSIE—(Age twenty). Very plain house dress with white apron and cap.

JOHN GRAY—Dark suit.

DORA—(Age forty), large woman, gingham dress, apron, cap.

BENTLEY—(Age twenty-one), tall, broad shoulders, nice looking, very countryfied; very bashful, sun burned, large straw hat, overalls, too short, faded blue shirt, low shoes, bright colored socks to be worn in first act. To be worn in last act—modern sack suit, white shirt diamond stud, looking the prosperous young man.

LEONARD—(Age twenty-five), small dudish fellow wearing eye glass, modern sack suit.

PROPERTIES

Telegram—for Brown. Little old fashion trunk for Brown and Bentley to carry.

Leonard—suit case.

White—Newspapers, cigars, letters.

Baltin—walking cane.

Bentley—milk pail.

Peggy—Basket full of eggs.

Nancy—pitcher, six glasses, lemonade, plate of cookies to serve for society; six pieces of sewing for Smithville ladies. Eye glass, whistle.

ACT 1

SCENE—IN SMITHVILLE.

The Brown's sitting room—Little stand stable with lamp and large low rocker, six straight chairs, upright piano to left of the room and old fashion dresser, old fashion lace curtains, and rag carpet.

As curtain rises, Nancy is sitting in low rocker knitting with glasses on, dressed very plain; looks up as Brown enters—all excitement.

Enters Brown—with a telegram at C.

Brown: "Guess who's coming Nancy! jest read what that says! (Brown hands telegram to Nancy.) (Nancy puts on glasses straight and reads.)

Nancy: "Why hits brother Jim's gal; she'll be in on the noon train. Better to get Joe to go and meet her."

Brown: "Oh no Nancy, I'll go 'cause the boy'll be bashful to go and meet Jim's gal, her bein' frum the city. I got old Tobe hitched to the wagin'. I low she'll bring a trunk along, don't you Nancy?"

Nancy: "Yes, course she will; why, her paw's rich an' she's got lots uve clothes."

Brown: "Well mother, you be fixin' some dinner while I'm gone."

Exit Brown to C (all excitement.)

Enters Bentley L.

Nancy: "Joe, Zebe just got a telegram frum my brother Jim frum Memphis tellin' us his Peggy will be on the noon train."

Bentley: "How old is she mammy?"

Nancy: "Oh yes I guess she's nigh on seventeen." (Shakes finger at Joe.)

Nancy: "Don't you be fallin' in love with her Joe."

Bently: "No danger Mammy Brown. I low she won't even notice a poor orphant boy like me."

Nancy: "Now Joe, don't talk like that, me an Zeb have tried to be mammy an' pappy to you, same as ef you wuz our own child. Course she'll notice you. I don't believe brother Jim 'ud raise a stuck up gal."

(Bently goes over to Nancy, pats her lovingly on shoulder.)

(They hear Brown and Peggy coming.)

(Bently slips out of room, too bashful to meet the girl from the city.)

(Nancy runs to door to meet them.)

(Enters Brown and Peggy. Nancy and Peggy kiss, then

Nancy holds Peggy out at arms' length.)

Nancy: "You look jist like your paw child."

(Nancy turns to find Joe gone calls in a loud voice.)

Nancy: "Joe, oh Joe! come here."

Enters Bently very awkward and bashful and is introduced to Peggy.

Nancy: "Peggy this is Joe Bently the boy me and Zeb raised, and Joe you know this is Peggy White brother Jim's gal."

Brown: "Come on Joe an' hep me with the trunks."

Exit—Brown and Bently C.)

(Nancy turns to Peggy.)

Nancy: "Now you jist take off your hat and make yourself tuh home while I go an' fix up a bite of dinner." Exit Nancy, R.

Peggy takes off her hat, lays it on the table, and looks around, amused at her surroundings. (She smiles).

Peggy: "Isn't this a quaint little cottage? and wasn't that bashful young man. Aunt Nancy called Joe too funny for any thing? (laughs). Wouldn't Burt laugh it he could see me? The last thing he said when he told me good bye, was for me not to fall in love with the country boys. (Throws head back and laughs). Me fall in love with a country boy! Me! Jim White's daughter of Memphis! Oh Burt, there is no danger, if Joe is a fair sample (turns to piano). Why, this is a new one. Wonder who plays it?"

Enters Bently, R: "Mammy Brown said come and wash, dinner's ready."

(Exit, Bently and Peggy R).

(Enters Nancy to R) with a basket of sewing in a bustle of excitement.)

Nancy: "I hope Peggy'll wake up soon cause the societies goin' to meet—hit's time fur the wimmin to be here now." (Sits down in rocker). (Some one knocks Nancy goes to door.)

Eners C, Ellen Jones and Jennie Tate, with a piece of sewing in their hands.

Nancy: "Why howdy-do Ellen! an' how be you Miss Tate?" (Both ladies seat themselves.)

(Nnocks on door Nancy goes to the door.)

(Enters Polly Springer, Symanthy Higgins, Sister Perkins, Nancy seats them and then turns to all of the ladies.)

Nancy: "Oh, I've got a sprize fur ye all. My niece frum Memphis is here. She's alseep but guess she'll wake up and come in afore you leave."

(Ladies all try to sew, but make no headway as their curi-

osity is aroused they all look to L and watch for the entrance of the girl from the city.)

(Enters Peggy, L. dressed in fine evening dress suitable only for the city.

Nancy: "Peggy this here is Miss Ellin Jones, Miss Jennie Tate, Mrs. Higgins, Polly Springer, and Sister Perkins." (Ladies all bow.)

Nancy: "I want ye to play an sing fur us, Peggy." (Turns to ladies).

Nancy: It ain't often us wimmin in Smithville git to hear abody from the city sing."

(Peggy goes to piano, seats her self, plays and sings "I'm Longing for You". She has a trained voice. The Smithville women don't understand nor appreciate her singing. They drop their sewing and stare at her dumbfounded. (When song is finished she goes to right, seats herself.)

(Nancy turns to Ellin Jones and asks her to play.)

Nancy: "You play Ellin?

(Ellin goes to piano, seats her self and plays and sings in a cracked voice, "When You and I Were Young Maggie." (The ladies faces looked bright again).

Nancy: "Ladies me and Peggy'll get the lemonade and cookies."

(Exit Nancy and Peggy to R.)

Sister Smith: "Did ye ever hear sich singing?"

"Why she must have thought she wuz a pitchin' her voice on top uve them tall buildings in the city, frum the way she wuz a hollerin'."

Symanthy Higgins: I never knowed no more when she wuz through than at first."

Siste[illegible]: "We wimmin ain't used to no sich new fangled singin' no how."

Jennie Tate: "Now there's Ellin, Miss Peggy ort to take lessons frum her, but my (throws hands up in horror) I don't like Miss Peggy's new fangle singin' ".

(Enters R.) Peggy and Nancy pass around the lemonade in glasses and Peggy passes the plate of cookies.

(Enters Brown. Rushes in bareheaded yelling to Nancy.)

Brown: "What in the world is all that noise Nancy? I'll be gol darned, old dobins run off with the plow. She run clean to th furside uve the field afore Joe could ketch her. I left Joe settin' astride the fence laughin' like his sides would bust. I'll bejiggered I never seed nothin' to laff at. Why ole woman, when I cum through the barn yard all of the chickens wuz skeered to death. Dad blast it, Nancy, tell me what caused all that racket?"

(The Smithville ladies all look with accusing eyes at Peggy.)

(Peggy begins to understand that it was her singing that caused the confusion.)

Peggy: "Oh Uncle Zebe, it must have been my singing that caused all this trouble."

Smithville ladies all speak at once: "I know hit wuz'nt Ellin."

Peggy: "I'll promise I won't sing any more while I'm here."

Brown: "Now, now! Peggy don't you be a feelin' bad. You can sing but don't sing so loud, 'cause the stock round here ain't use to no sich high pitchin' voices."

Peggy: "All right Uncle Zeb." (Peggy turns to all of the ladies.)

Peggy: Excuse me ladies and I'll go out to the barn yard with Uncle Zeb—then you ladies can enjoy yourselves in your OWN WAY."

(Exit Brown and Peggy C.)

(Nancy turns to ladies.)

Nancy: "We'll meet at your house next time Ellin and maybe git more sewing done than we did to-day."

(Enters Zeb C)—all excitement.

Zeb: "Come quick Nancy all the old setting hens have quit their nest. come hep me git 'em back agin?"

Exit Nancy C in lead followed by Ellen, Jennie, Polly, Samanthy, Sister Perkins), the ladies all grab their sewing and rush out after Nancy.

SECOND SCENE—ACT 1.

Garden scene with rustic bench. Enter Joe and Peggy with her hair down in curls, sun bonnet hanging to her neck. Dressed in large gingham apron and carrying a basket of eggs. Joe carrying a pail of milk. They come in talking, sit down on bench, place the basket and pail down on the ground at their feet.

Peggy: "I've been here two whole weeks and I have had the best time. Oh! I never knew what country life was, I love to gather the eggs and watch you milk old Bossy. I don't feel like I shall ever want to go back to the city again."

Bentley: "I'm glad you like the country, but Miss Peggy I git tired of this life, I long to go where I can do something and learn. I ain't got no learnin' and I want it so bad, now more 'an I ever did. I'de like to go out in the world and git rich like your Pa did, then I would have a chance to win the girl I love.

but now I lowe it is too late, for somebody elsill git her afore I—I make, even make, a start, but if I knowed she'd wait I' 'ed work my finger nails off or make a man she would be proud uve, but Miss Peggy I'm afraid I'de never make her know how well I love her, don't you see?"

Peggy: "Oh I don't know Joe her love might be as true as yours."

(Enter to C Leonard with suit case.) (Peggy looks up with a start, then goes to meet her city sweetheart.)

(Bentley throws back his head and waits to meet Peggy's city fellow.)

Peggy: "Mr. Bentley meet my friend Mr. Leonard." (Men bow very cool). Exit Bently, as he goes out picks up basket and milk pail.

Leonard: "Sweetheart I knew you'd be tired of this little old burg, so I came to take you home with me. (He tries to take her in his arms.)

(Peggy draws back from him with a cool answer.)

Peggy: "Why Bert I'm not going home with you, I just love this little old burg as you call it, it's people and their good old country ways."

Leonard: "You don't mean to tell me you like this place, and these outlandish people? Peggy have you fallen in love with that green country boy?"

Peggy in anger: "Hush Bert, don't you dare make fun of Joe, for he is worth a hundred like you. Joe is a man, and what are you? What are you? I love his honest, upright ways, there is true manhood in him. He is good looking and if dressed up nice he would make you look like fifteen cents."

Leonard: "So he has dared to make love to you. He wants your money?"

Peggy: "No he has not asked me to marry him for he knows that I am engaged to you and he is too much of a gentleman but I know he loves me, therefore I can never marry you. I will propose to Joe before I'll lose him, for I love him, if he is poor."

Leonard, in anger: "We'll see what your father has to say about this. He'll never consent for you marrying such a low country hand. (Picks up suit case to leave) "I'll go back to the city and when you get over this country dream you can send for me, FOR PEGGY I CAN'T GIVE YOU UP.

(Exit Leonard C).

(Enters Bentley R.) "Where's your friend Miss Peggy."

(Peggy tosses her head and laughs). "Oh I sent him where he belongs, I broke my engagement. I just cannot love him. If he has got lots of money. I love someone else.

(Joe looking very doleful): "I—I hope you'll be happy, Peggy."

(Peggy goes up close to Joe and looks up into his eyes): "Why don't you ask who the lucky fellow is who has WON MY GREAT BIG HEART?"

(Bentley's face lights up.)

Peggy: "Oh! you great big goose are you blind? Can't you see I love you Joe? You my country Joe. (Joe clasps her in his arms saying:) "Oh Peggy, my Peggy, do you love me?"

"Can it be true you love a poor boy like me?" (They sit down on bench, Joe talking) "You'll never be sorry love, 'cause I'm goin' to leave Smithville and when I come back for you, you won't be ashamed of your country Joe. You'll wait for me, won't you Peggy?"

Peggy: "Oh, yes, yes Joe, I'll wait for you."

Bentley: "But what will your father say? I lowe he won't give in for you to marry me."

Peggy: "I know he won't now, but he cannot make me marry Mr. Leonard. I'll be true and wait for you; then when you make a lot of money, dad will let me marry you. It's the money that dad loves, but I hate it. I'd marry you right now but I love you too well. I know you crave to go out in the world and make something. So if I were to marry you I'd only be a stone around you neck, for dad wouldn't give me a penny, so Joe its best to wait." (Bentley takes Peggy in his arms.)

Bentley: "Yes sweetheart we must wait, I wouldn't marry you as poor as I am now. I'll sell my piano, Pappy Brown gave me and then I'll have money to start on." They both sing: "I have Money for Two Months Rent."

(Enters L. Nancy and Brown talking.)

Brown: "Here Nancy is a letter from Memphis, guess hits frum Jim." (Nancy opens letter and reads aloud):

Dear Sister Nancy:

"Peggy has made you a long visit and I'm lonely without her, and want her to come home. Nancy, can't you come with her? It has been a long time since we were together and then you would enjoy the city, so come."

"Your loving Brother Jim.

Brown: "Now's your time Nancy you can go with Peggy and when you get homesick I'll come and bring you home, I can git Ellin to tend to the things with Joe's help."

Nancy: "Old man I allus have wanted to go to the city and see them tall buildings you told me about and thars brother Jim, I hain't seed him since he wuz eighteen. You know he left home and landed in Memphis and got rich and has been thar

evere since. And oh, Zeb I can git to go to the big circus."

(Enter whole company, who sing with Zeb and Nancy) "Everybody's Happy on Circus Day."

(Exit all but Nancy and Zebe.)

Brown: "Wa'll ole woman you better be apackin' your trunk cause Peggy's agoin' early in the morning."

(Exit Brown to L).

(Enters Brown and sings a raggy song).

(Exit Brown L.)

(Enters L, Joe, Zebe, Nancy, she turns to Joe.)

Nancy: "Now Joe be sure an strip ole Boss cause Ellin won't make no butter eff you don't git the strippings cause I promised Symanthy Higgins some butter, an you watch ole speck, she'll hatch in nine days an when Symanthy Higgins comes over tell Ellin to let her have two pounds o' butter an that settin' uve eggs I promised her."

Bentley: "Alright mammy I'll tell her."

(Nancy turns to Brown to give a few directions) ("An Zebe don't furgit to slop the sow an pigs, an you—"

Brown: "Now Nancy I'll tend to them things, you hurry up an git on your riggin, hits most time fur the train to come."

(Exit Nancy, Brown, Bentley.)

(Enter Brown and Bentley C carring Nancy's little trunk, Nancy close on behind dressed in dark plain dress wearing little bonnet covered with bright flowers, Peggy in her neat fine suit and hat to match. Brown and Bentley sit the trunk close to C. (Brown and Nancy go to L of stage to talk). Peggy and Joe to R of stage. Joe steals a kiss while the old couples backs are turned.)

Brown: "Now Nancy don't you be lettin' 'em put you to sleep up stairs, cause eff the house ketches afire I won't be thar to git you out."

Nancy: "All right ole man."

(Exit Brown: Nancy, Joe, Peggy. (Brown an Bentley carrying Nancy's trunk.)

CURTAIN.

ACT 11.—SCENE 11

JIM WHITE'S LIBRARY—Library table, chairs, White reading a paper and smoking, pictures on walls, bell on table to ring.

(Enter Butler C—hands White a card.)

(White reads the card, nods for Butler to bring him in.)

(Enter Butler and Leonard.)

Exit Butler.)

(White gets up goes to meet his caller, shakes hands.)

White: "Why I thought you were in Smithville."

Leonard, in anger: "In Smithville, you played the devil, when you let Peggy go there, she's gone crazy over a common farm hand, that Joe fellow that your brother-in-law raised, and she has thrown ME over for that thing."

White, in anger: "What, Bert this can not be true; Peggy my proud peggy in love with a poor man, Oh! I can not believe it." (White begins to smile). "Bert she was only testing your love for her, you know what a tease our Peggy is."

Leonard: "Oh! no Mr. White she meant every word, she went so far as to tell me she loved this low farm hand, but that he hadn't asked her to marry him. But of course the fellow will for he wants her money. She even went so far as to say before she would loose him she would do the proposing herself. What do you think of your proud Peggy now?"

White: "Wait 'till she comes, I'm expecting her home, her aunt is coming, you rest easy, I'll fix things for you; Why she'll marry you alright. If she won't and marries that fellow Joe, I'll cut her off without a penny, and Peggy could never be happy in poverty."

(Leonard sits down, leaning over, has head in hands and is feeling blue) White slaps Leonard on shoulder and laughs). White: "Peggy the little tease is only trying to see if you really love her, (laughs), she's a case."

Exit Leonard and White C.)

(Enter White, Nancy, Peggy.)

White: "Well Nancy your face brings back olden times. Of course you are older but you look so much like our mother."

Nancy: "You look younger than I thought you'd be, an you are the very spit uve papy."

White: "I think I look verp much like father's picture. I look young because city life agrees with me, Nancy."

(Peggy rings for maid.)

(Enters Essie the maid R).

Peggy: "Essie show aunt Nancy her room."

(Exit Nancy. Essie R.)

White: (turns to Peggy) "I say Peggy that was a good joke you played on Bert at Smithville."

Peggy: "What joke dad."

White: "Making him believe you were going to throw him over for that farm hand Joe, at Nancy's."

(Peggy looks up defiant and knows the storm is coming).

Peggy: "It was no joke dad, I meant every word I said, I don't love Bert and I can never marry him, but I do love Joe and we're going to marry some day."

White: (thunders out). "What, you, my daughter, who was reared in luxury to stand there and tell me, your father, that you intend to marry a low farm hand. Peggy are you crazy?"

Peggy: (trys to explain) "Oh listen dad, Joe's not a low farm hand, he's just a poor unfortunate fellow, who has never had a chance in this world he's going out into the world now to make a fortune like you dad, then he is going to ask you for your daughter."

White: (throws head back and laughs) "So you 're silly enough to believe that. Well daughter when he has made as much money as I HAVE, then he can have you. Peggy, I wouldn't wait I 'd take Bert for he has plenty, and I'm afraid this country hero of yours will turn out to be only a summer dream."

(Peggy smiles): "We'll see."

(Exit Father and daughter.)

Enter Nancy and Peggy, with toothpick in months) been to supper.

Peggy is dressed in fine house dress, Nancy in plain dress with white apron.)

Peggy: "Aunty are you sleepy? do you want to retire?"

Nancy: "Yes I be, but I want to sleep down stairs, I'm skeered to sleep up stairs."

Peggy: "Why aunty your room joins mine and if you want me you can call."

Nancy: "That aint it, I'm askeered uve fires and if the house ketches afire Zebe aint here to git me out."

Peggy: "Oh we'd get you out alright."

(Nancy shakes her head): "No you wouldn't, Peggy call the woman whut cooks your viteles."

Peggy: "Why aunt Nancy don't you like her cooking?"

Nancy: "Yes but call her."

(Exit Peggy R.)

(Enter Peggy and Dora.)

(Nancy runs and shakes hands with Dora and asks to sleep with her.)

Nancy: "Can I sleep with you, I'm skeered to sleep up stairs, and I promised Zebe the last afore I left I would'nt, and I haint."

(Peggy throws up hands in horror then she sees how bad Nancy feels so she agrees.)

Peggy: "Well Dora I guess she can sleep with you and stay in her room in the day time."

(Exit Dora, Nancy, Peggy, R.)

(Zebe or Joe can sing,L). Exit singer ,L).

(Nancy, Peggy R. Dressed to go shopping, Nancy has on

black silk dress, very old style, little bonnet covered with flowers, Peggy is dresed in pretty street dres and hat.)

Peggy: "Is that the best dress you have, aunt Nancy?"

(Nancy with pride): 'Ain't this good enough, why hits most new. I ain't never wore hit morn three or four time, and I jist had hit ten yer's. Zebe bought hit when he cum to Memphis an' brung hit hom to me, hits the only silk dress I ever had. I've been awful pertickler to sun hit, often, (she gets up and struts around with pride). Oh ,yes, Peggy hits most new. Don't you like the fit? Symanthy Higgins made hit, you just orter seed the folks at Smithville stare at me the fust time I wore hit ter meeting. Hit wuz'nt jist the right to war but I wuz so proud I wanted everybody to know I had it."

Peggy: Well aunty, I guess it will do, but it is awfully out of style (smiles). I am going to buy you some nice stylish clothes, then you can give that dress to the cook."

(Exit Nancy, Peggy C.)

(Enter Brown C telecope grip.) They tole me Nancy an Peggy wuz a shoppin', I hope they won't be long, cause I'm a gettin' lonesome to see my ole woman. Since Joe left it air awful quiet, at home, I'll stay about a week then guess Nancy'll be ready to go home, I left Jim Higgins to tend to things."

(Enter Nancy C, dressed in a new fine black silk dress full skirt, extra short, high heel shoes, silk hose, small stylish hat. Nancy walks in hardly knowing how to manage her high heel shoes.)

Nancy: "Oh Zebe when did you come?"

(Brown backs off in horror at Nancy's riggin.)

Brown: "Is that you Nancy? You aint my Smithville Nancy. Where did ye git that riggin'? Why I can see your stockings wife, and you've pulled off your yarn uns. Oh, Nancy you'll die, why did I let you come to the city, take that short dress off right this minute, or you an me'll part, and put your yarn stockings on do you hear me Nancy."

Nancy: "Oh, aint you going to kiss me Zebe. It ain't my fault, Peggy rigged me up, in the store, and I knowed I wuz a sight but law ole man I never knowed you wuz here."

Nancy goes up to Brown, puts up her face to be kissed. Brown holds himself off at arms length and bends over and kisses her.)

Nancy: (Flops herself down in a chair). "Oh, I'm tired to death. Why the fust thing me and Peggy wuz awalkin' down the street and I wuz a liikin' at thim tall buildings. Why Zebe, they wuz jist like you sed, they wuz, I had to throw my head back on my shoulders to see, I couldn't walk and look to so I stopped, soze I could look good. What do you think? One uve

them Policemen ups and sez he, "Move on Madam?" Well says I, "Can't a body stop an look at the tall buildings? that's one uve the sights I come to see." "No Madam" sez he. Well the very I'dee, sez I, why in Smithville you can stand in front uve the bank buildin' an' look eze long eze you want to an not a soul would dare to tell a body to move on, I moved on, and caught up with Peggy, her face wuz jist eze red, Sez I "be your face blistered? jlst use some cows cream on hit, hit'll be well in the mornin.'" Well we went in one uve them big dry good stores. Peggy wanted to buy her a cheap little hat. But law Zebe she coulda bought her a half a dozin in Smithville fer ten dollars. I told her she ort to buy all her hats there hited pay her. She jist kinder smiled."

Brown: "Well Nancy, did ye git to see a circus?"

Nancy: "No Peggy sed she'd take me but she kept puttin' me off."

Brown: "Did you git to ride in an automobile?"

Nancy: "You jist wait Zebe I'm a comin' to that. Well, when we started to go down them stairs Peggy said, Auntie we'll go down the elevator; Lord Zebe I never wuz so skeered, we walked in a cage like thing, they shut the door, the floor begin to drap in, I just grabbed Peggy around the waist an yelled, Oh lordy! Oh lordy! be it an earth quake jist save me and I will never leave Zebe and Smithville again. Peggy tried to tell me somethin' but law I wuz so skeered I didn't know nothin' till that drap in floor stopped. Peggy sez she, we're all right now. I seed I wuz'nt hurt so I moved on, then Jim wuz a waitin' out side with his automobile fur us. I shore wuz glad, he made thta car go so fast I jist looked at the tall building's all I wanted to, cause I knowed that policeman couldn't say move on cause we wuz a movin'. I lost my tuckin' comb, and pity nigh all of my hair pins. Well Zebe I'm awful hungry, less go and git dinner, don't you hope they'd have corn bread and greens.

(Exit Nancy and Brown to R.)

(Enters Peggy): "I bought aunt Nancy some stylish clothes and hope, I can get her to wear them while she is with us. Her things are so outlandish. They didn't look so bad in Smithville but here. Oh! my how the people stare at her. It was too funny for anything when I told her I would buy her a cap, she flared up and said now Peggy I know I'm old but I aint agoin' to wear a cap like Granma Jones, I finely made her understand that every one wears caps now adays. Bless her dear old heart. If I had'nt had a dear old aunt Nancy, I never would

have met Joe. I ought to get a letter from him I thought I heard the postman whistle.

(Enters Nancy C.)

Nancy: "Here's a letter for you Peggy, guess hits from Joe."

(Peggy runs eagerly to Nancy, takes the letter and reads to herself).

Nancy: "Well what does he say?"

Peggy: "Oh he said he is working at two dollars a day and studying at night so he can learn to write nice letters to me that I won't be ashamed of and sends his love to mammy an pappy Brown."

(Exit Nancy R.)

(Peggy kisses Joe's letter so poorly written crying.)

Peggy: Oh! Joe, I love you, I love you, I know you will learn and make a man that dad will be proud to call son, but Joe I get so blue waiting for you.

Peggy sings, "I'm a feelin' Blue.")

Enter Nancy, R: "Why Peggy whut you singin' sich a blue song for, ye ain't feelin' blue for Joe air ye?"

(Peggy begins to cry.)

Peggy: "Yes, auntie I'm thinking it will be a long,—long time before I see him again, he is only getting two dollars aday and it will take a long time before he'll be as rich as dad at that rate."

(Nancy pats Peggy on shoulder.)

Nancy: "Don't you cry honey maybe Joe'll strike somethin' rich an come home soon, 'cause that boys got it in him to make money. Why at home he bought ole Boss fer twenty-dollars and sold her heifer calf fer thirty five. Now warn't that makin' money?" (Peggy smiles.)

Peggy: "Yes I know auntie if Joe only had half a chance he'd make good. Well auntie I'm going out this evening, you won't be lonely will you."

Nancy: "No, no, you go on, I'll be alright, guess Zeb'll be back soon."

(Exit Peggy, L.)

(Nancy talking to herself):

Nancy: "Poor Peggy I feel so sorry fer her. Her paw don't want her and Joe ter marry. He wants her to marry that little fellow, bet he ain't got strength to milk a cow, looks like abanty rooster. Iwouldn't give Joe fer a hole barn yard full like him. It makes me feel blue to see Joe, I do hope he'll make lots uve money. But law I'm skeered he'll never make enuft to be buyin' her sich fine hats. May be she'll take ter gittin' em

at Smithville, eff she an Joe gits married. I'm a gittin' lonesome believe I'll go an git Dora to come an set with me awhile."

(Exit Nancy R.) Dressed in her old fashion silk dress,

(Enters Peggy L dressed to go calling, calls in loud voice).

Peggy: "Aunt Nancy, Oh, aunt Nancy."

Essie: "Miss Peggy your aunt is in the kitchen, I over-heard her asking Dora to come and sit with her while you were gone."

Peggy: "Essie go tell aunt Nancy to come here at once."

(Exit, Essie R.)

(Enter Nancy, R.)

Peggy: "What have you been doing aunt Nancy?"

Nancy: "Why I've been askin Dora to come and sit awhile with me."

Peggy: "You can not have the cook in your room. Why aunt Nancy all the servants will talk."

(Nancy bristles up looks over her glasses at Peggy.)

Nancy: "Well the idee uve folks bein' so stuck up they cain't associate with a body right under their own roof. Now Peggy don't say a word me an Zebe's goin' home, whar abody knows how to treat folks.

Peggy: "Now auntie don't get angry, let me explain."

(Exit Nancy. L, in a flurry.)

(Enter. White. L).

White: "What's the matter with Nancy?"

Peggy: "Oh daddy I made her mad, because I told her she could not have the cook in her room to sit with her."

Enter Nancy and Zebe. They are wearing their Smithville clothes, and carrying Nancy's little old trunk between them. Zebe is carrying his old grip. Zebe glares at White and Peggy.)

Zebe: "Come on Nancy, we'll go back home whar they know how to treat folks. (While Zebe is talking.)

Enter Essie, Dora, John Grey, all throw up hands in horror at the hasty departure of the old couple.

CURTAIN

ACT III—SCENE —

(Same Library as in Act II five years later. Been two years since Peggy has heard from Joe. Her father has destroyed all Joe's letters for two years. He has kept all Nancy's letters from Peggy for fear she would hear from Joe. White is in financial trouble and is trying to get Peggy to marry Col. Baltin, as he holds papers over White. White looks care-worn.)

(Peggy is sitting looking at Joe's picture and has one of his old letters in her hand. She shakes her head saying.)

Peggy: "It has been five long years since Jeo left, and too years since I had a line from him. Oh, Joe! Joe! can it be that you have ceased to love me, and you've married some one else? All these long years I've been true to you, but now Joe, if you only were here, I can not hold out much longer. Dad wants me to marry Col Baltin. Oh, what must I do. I cannot see poor dad ruined. Joe must either be dead or married or he would surely write." (shakes head.)

(Enters Butler C. with Col Baltin's card.)

(Peggy reads card.)

Peggy: "Yes I'll see him."

(Exit Butler C.)

(Enter Butler. Col. Baltin.)

(Exit Butler C.)

Col. goes up to Peggy tries to kiss her hand, Peggy puts both her hands behind her.

Col. B: "Well my dear are you ready to give me my answer? (Peggy gives long drawn sigh as she gives him her answer.)

Peggy: "Oh I guess it is yes?

(Col starts to take Peggy in his arms but she shrinks back from him. Col. looks very much displeased.)

Col. Baltin: "Well when shall the wedding take place? Next week Miss Peggy?"

(Peggy shrinking back and cries out.)

Peggy: "Oh no, no! Col. Baltin I must have time, give me three months to get ready."

Col. Baltin: "Miss Peggy three months is a long time. Will it take that long to get your wedding finery ready."

Peggy: "Yes it will take that long to get ready, Col. Baltin."

Col. Baltin: "Good bye my dear."

(Exit Col. Baltin. C)

(Peggy begins to cry).

Peggy: Oh Joe! Joe! only three short months of freedom. Will you come? If you fail me my love, I'll—I'll have to sell my self to save poor old dad. Oh daddy it is for your sake, but I'd rather be dead."

Enters White L, looking old and care worn.)

White: "For two years I've had the Butler to hold out Peggy's letters to Joe, and his to her. Sister Nancy's too, I dared not let her hear from her aunt for fear Nancy would send Peggy some news of Bentley. Oh, My child if your lover was only rich, you could be happy and save your poor dad. But my little Peggy you will have to marry Col. Baltin and save me. Col. Baltin just told me that Peggy had promised to marry him in three months. Oh, My God, this awful suspense. I cannot stand it much longer."

(Enters Butler. R. with Peggy's letter to Joe. Butler goes up to White gives him Peggy's letter to Joe.)

(Exit Butler R.)

White: "Now I must destroy this it must never reach Bentley, or all will be lost, my child must never know."

(Exit White . C.)

SCENE—— III ACT

White's Library, three months later, Peggy's wedding morn. Butler gets a letter from Nancy Brown to Peggy, he knows that White is destroying Peggy's letters and he feels sorry for his young mistress, and slips the letter to her.)

(Enters Peggy L, feeling very blue as this is her wedding day. She seats herself at table.)

(Enter Butler. Looks all around to see that Mr. White is out of sight then hurries across the room gives the letter to Peggy). Butler in a whisper. Here Miss Peggy is a letter, maybe it has some good news in it for you my little missy?"

(Exit Butler). (He hurries out of room afraid to be caught giving the letter to Peggy.)

Peggy: "This is my last day of freedom. Oh! how can I stand it. (Looks at letter). Why this is from Smithville, wonder why aunt Nancy has been so long in writing to me? (Opens letter reads, her face lights up with joy, Peggy reads letter aloud.)

My Dear Niece Peggy:

You never could guess the good news I'm about to rite you, Joe's on his way home, he's geen sick a long time an then he couldn't hear from you, so got on easy an has started home, he said he aint heerd frum you in along time an he wanted to know eff you an' thet little fellow Leonard wuz married. Eff ye aint

Yer uncle sends his love an me to,

Peggy, wait fer Joe.

Your AUNT NANCY.

(Peggy looks around and looks so happy.)

Peggy: "Oh dear Lord you've answered my prayer. Oh, Joe, they tried to make me think you were false, but now I know you've been true, and my own love I'll be waiting for you. This is my wedding day; but there will be no wedding here to day. Sweetheart—We've been parted by fate but its never to late, so I'll just wait and see what fate will bring to me."

(Peggy sings: "It Was Evening in the Twilight." Joe comes in just as she finishes chorus and last verse, he stands C and listens when she finishes song, he goes and clasps her in his arms.

(Joe is dressed up looking very prosperous.)

Enter Bentley: "Oh, my precious Peggy, fate has brought

me back to you: (kisses her then holds her off at arms length and looks at her saying). "What is this they tell me? that this is your wedding eve, you're about to be married to a Col. Baltin? Is this true Peggy?"

Peggy: "Yes Joe, this was to have been my wedding day, but I received a letter from Aunt Nancy, telling me that you was on your way home, you had been unable to get any news from me, and was coming to see what was the matter. Then Joe I knew you still loved me, and was still single."

Bentley: "And you never loved this man you were about to wed?"

Peggy: "Oh, no! no! I was being forced into this marriage to save my father from ruin. Joe for the three months I've tried to hear from you, but no answer ever came, so what was I to think? It has been two long years since I had a line from you."

(Bentley puts his arm around Peggy.)

Bentley: "Poor little sweetheart. And you never received, not one of my letters that I have written in two years? But thank God I'm here Peggy, and we'll never be parted again, for it seems I'm just in time to save you; and your poor father. I was up against it for a long time, but luck changed. Then my partner died and left all he had. So I have come to claim my own. 'Tis now I can face your father and ask for you.

(Enter White. Col Baltin. C.)

(Col B. starts towards Joe, for he sees Bentley has his arm around Peggy, but Joe puts Col. B aside.)

Bentley: "Gentlemen listen I want a word with both of you: Peggy belongs to me. Col. Baltin you have tried to get her by foul means. And you Mr. White tried to part us, but I'm a rich man now, you remember what you told her five years ago, that when I came to you a rich man, then I could claim your daughter. Now Mr. White I ask you will you give Peggy to me? I'll save you, and claim Peggy as my own.

White: "Yes! Yes! take her for you can make her happy for she loves you."

Bentley: "Col. Baltin, we'll excuse you, for we have no further use for YOU." (Exit Col. Baltin, C.)

While: "Oh, my boy can you forgive an old man? I kept your letters from Peggy, and hers from you, for I knew that if she could not hear from you she would marry the Col. and I thought that you were poor. I was in such financial trouble, and I could not face the ruin. I had only my child to save me, but thank God you're here to save us both.

Bentley: "Darling it's good to be back in dear old Tennessee, with you again. Come we'll sing that new song:

"Way Back in Dear Old Tennessee."

(Enter all, join in chorus.) CURTAIN

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